a large party, and many of the officers I find here are old acquaintances. The weather is not disagreeably hot, though last night, at a ball where the general carried us, I confess I thought a little of the Black Hole at Calcutta.

I have begun my operations by restoring a Danish brig-of-war that was lying here.

I behold with some pleasure the vast variety and novelty of cultivated Nature around me; but am better pleased with the sight of the extraordinarily beautiful wild flowers and shrubs. This is a most charming island, with woody mountains and varied scenery*

February 9th, 1802.

I have been two days at St. Pierre, where General Keppel entertained us. We had also a grand dinner at a merchant's house. We went and came back in canoes, a charming trip along the coast, which varies every minute. The rain prevented my riding into the picturesque environs of St. Pierre, which are more precipitous and wilder than those of Fort Royal, though more cultivated. I have experienced no

inconvenience
from the climate.